

December Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30, Wednesday, December 14

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, December 14 and 15

Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Ron Cronin

Subject:

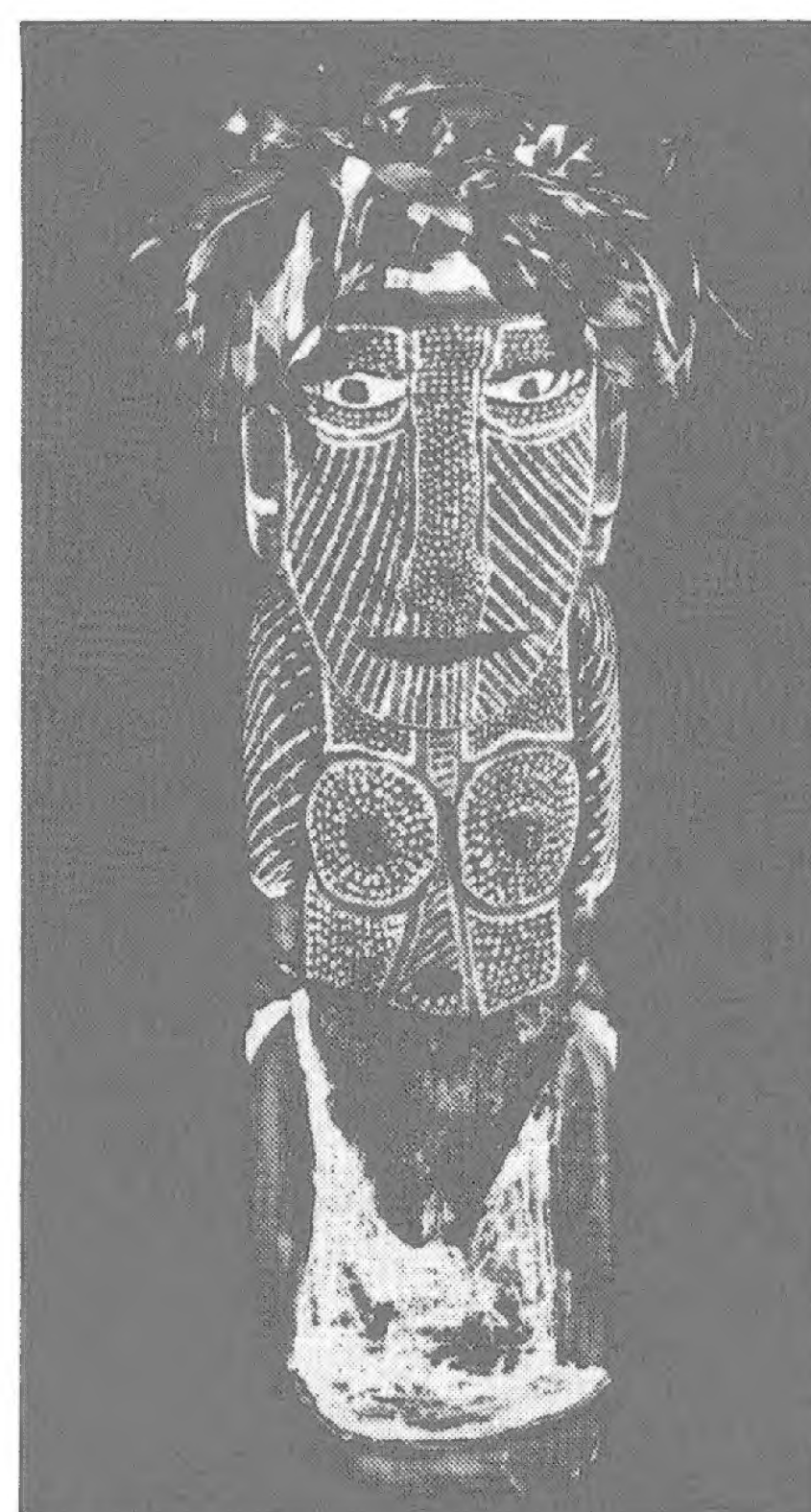
"Along Oregon's Coast"

The beauty and the many moods of the Pacific Northwest have been captured on slides and set to the classical compositions of Beethoven, Mozart and Debussy, by our guest speaker, Ron Cronin, in what promises to be a memorable holiday gift to the members of the Academy. Ron, a self educated biologist and an excellent photographer, lives in the wilds of Oregon where he farms for sustenance, sews and cooks for himself, (his pie baking abilities are locally renowned), and is devoted to music.

Using his artful and practiced hand with a camera, Ron's motion picture-like presentation takes us along Oregon's spectacular coastline and rocky headlands and moves inland to the rugged coastal peaks, lush rain forests and broad river valleys. First you will see a dramatic overview of the Giant Sitka Spruce or Douglas Fir tree forests and then the picture zooms in to explore the many inhabitants of the ecosystem that make up each community.

As usual there will be three presentations of **Along Oregon's Coast**. Your membership card admits you through the Cowell Hall entrance for all three meetings, and through the Wattis Hall entrance for the matinee. (The Wattis Hall entrance is closed in the evenings.) You will be asked to present your membership card at the auditorium door for the matinee presentation.

Special Exhibits



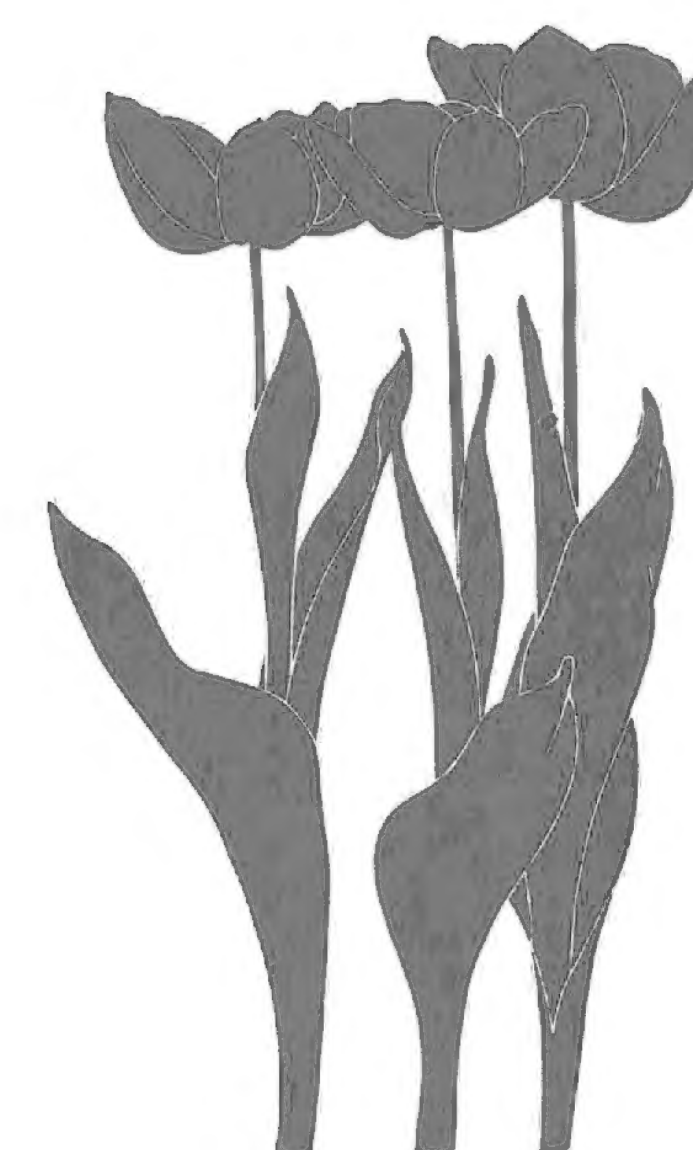
Art of the First Australians

Australian Aborigines developed their art forms over thousands of years in almost complete isolation from the rest of the world. More than 300 works, including paintings, sculpture, carvings, wooden implements, woven articles and weapons are now on display in **Art of the First Australians**, a major exhibition on loan from the Australian Exhibit Organization and arranged by the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australia Council.

One example, above, is a carved and elaborately decorated human figure from the Tiwi Group of Bathurst Island. Such figures were an integral part of ceremonial ritual and are believed by the Aborigines to represent mythical ancestors from the Dreamtime — the time of creation.

Art of the First Australians will be on display in the Patricia Price Peterson and Atholl McBean Galleries through March, 1978. A beautifully illustrated catalogue for the show is available at the information desks.

Rails of the World continues in Lovell White Hall with 42 brilliant watercolors by the well-known J. Fenwick Lansdowne. The exhibition is on loan from the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and will be on display through this month.



Tulips by Henry Evans

Botanical Prints by Henry Evans, Printmaker continues in Hohfeld Gallery through December. His book, of the same name, is on sale in the exciting new Museum Shop located in Cowell Hall, for \$25.00 (less, of course, your special 10% member's discount).

Living Arts

Programs of living arts in the Christmas spirit will be presented three Saturdays this month beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Wattis Hall of Man.

December 3:

Join with the French-American Bilingual School Chorus in a program of French and English Christmas carols. The students will accompany their carols on flutes, recorders, and violins.

December 10

Phillis Schlomovitz, known for her exceptional talents as a harpist, will present a program of Medieval to Modern music for the harp in the spirit of Christmas.

December 17:

Origami, the art of Japanese paper folding, will be demonstrated by Linda and Vicki Mihara. Bring your own paper and add to your tree ornaments!

Advance Notice of Monthly Meetings

January 11 and 12, 1978: Joe Robinson, "Journey Across the Roof of the World"

Special Lecture

Laserium

Morrison Planetarium

Beginning December 2, is the annual holiday favorite, **The Christmas Star**, which takes us back to that magical night in Bethlehem when a brilliant star appeared on the horizon. What was it . . . a cosmic explosion, a rampant comet? Don't miss this sparkling presentation, daily at 2:00 p.m. with extra weekend performances at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30. Evening shows are on Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Another highlight in the newly renovated Morrison Planetarium is the weekend program **Exploring the Skies of the Season**, an enjoyable guided tour of the heavens from stars and constellations to the moon, planets and any unusual current astronomical events. This program is presented every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

NOTE: The Morrison Planetarium will be closed Christmas Day.

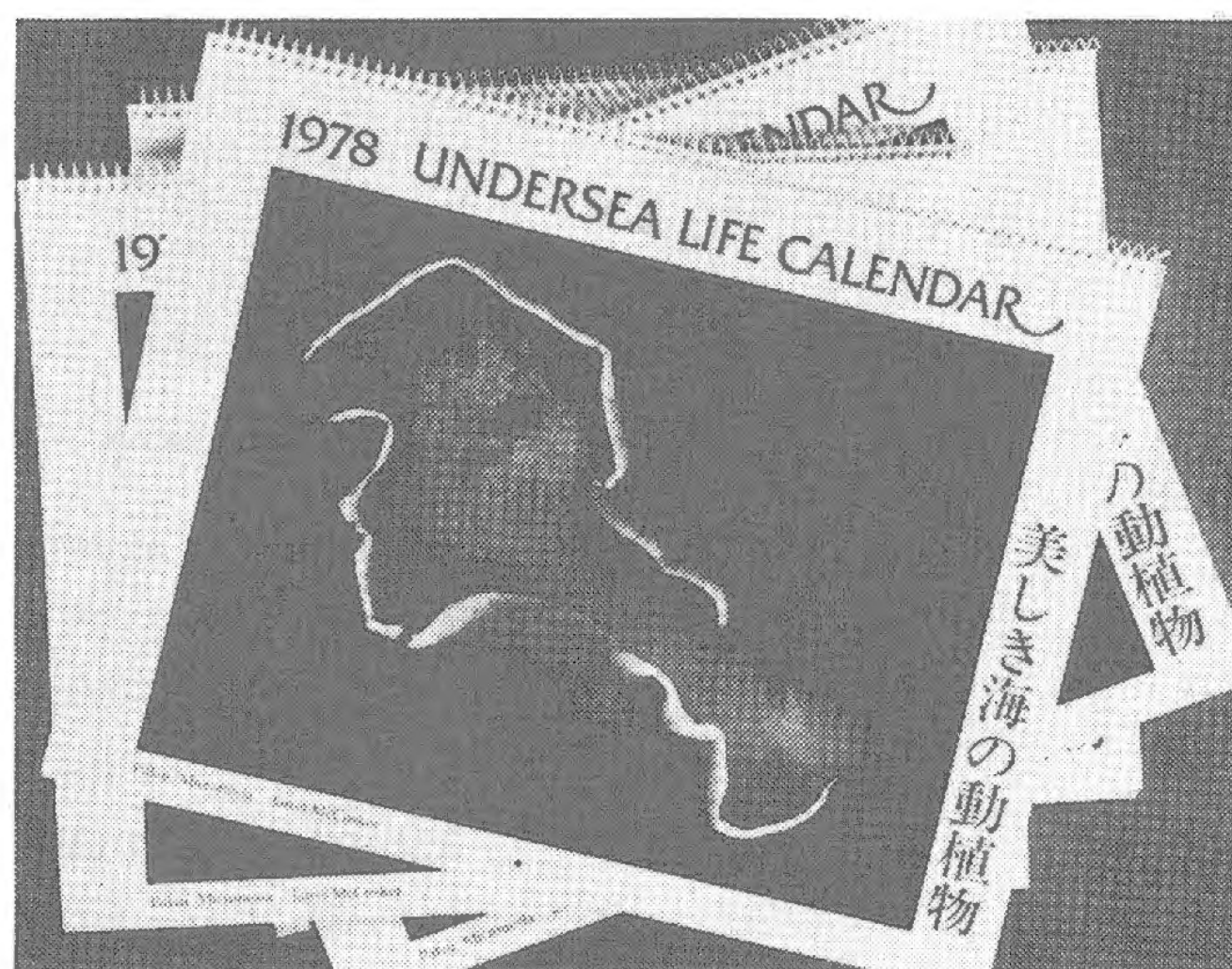
Using a powerful one-watt Krypton gas laser, colorful three dimensional images seem to pulsate, float and dance in concert with the music against a background of stars. **Laserium I** can be seen on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 p.m. **Laserium II** can be seen on Fridays at 7:30 and 10:30; on Saturdays at 5:00, 7:30, and 10:30; and on Sundays at 5:00 and 7:30. Admission to all 5:00 p.m. shows is \$3.00; to all others, \$3.25. Advance tickets are available through all BASS outlets, and remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Members are reminded that this is **not** a planetarium show **nor** are your membership passes usable for this attraction.

Put January 9 on your calendar as the day to come out to the Academy's Morrison Auditorium to see a special film and lecture presentation on the **Culture and Art of New Guinea**. Visiting speaker Keith Buxton is an anthropologist and international expert on the cultural heritage, wildlife and natural history of this remote and fascinating country. Mr. Buxton is an Australian who first visited New Guinea over 20 years ago. In the

Inside the Academy

years intervening he has traveled the length of the country and has become thoroughly familiar with both the Highland area of Papua New Guinea and the Sepic River region. He will share with us his wide knowledge of the customs, culture and ceremonies of the natives.

The presentation, free to the public, will be held at 8 p.m. on January 9. It should be of particular interest to those members who are considering the Academy's trip to the **Islands of the Pacific and New Guinea** next August.



365 Days Under the Sea

The beauty of Palau, Micronesia, recently the center of international controversy over the planned development of a petroleum superport, has been captured in photographs for the **1978 Undersea Life Calendar** by noted marine photographer Ed Janss, with bilingual text in English and Japanese by Dr. John McCosker, Director of the Steinhart Aquarium. Among the 13 photographs, each suitable for framing, is an ominous octopus, an exotically beautiful but poisonous anemone, a predatory strawberry coral and the iridescent mantle of a gigantic clam.

The **1978 Undersea Life Calendar** is practical as well as beautiful and can be ordered from the Aquarium, or purchased at the Museum Shop for \$5.00 (plus tax). (Cost to non-members, \$5.95, plus tax).

For your convenience during the holidays, the Museum Shop will be open the evenings of December 14 and 15.

Education and Travel Notes

In February of 1977, Dr. Sylvia Earle of the California Academy of Sciences, and underwater film producer, Al Giddings, in collaboration with Dr. and Mrs. Roger Payne, spent several months in Hawaii, primarily off the coast of Maui, studying the songs and behavior of the humpback whales. Their travels then took them to Glacier Bay, Alaska, and with the help of biologists Chuck and Virginia Jurasz, their research turned to the feeding behavior of the humpbacks. In both locations well-known cinemaphotographer, Al Giddings, filmed the activity underwater and topside, and the splendid results will be aired on Saturday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m. on **NBC** in a one-hour special entitled, "**Gentle Giants of the Pacific**". The program was produced by Survival Anglia Ltd. and the research was sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences, The National Geographic Society, The New York Zoological Society, and the World Wildlife Fund. The program is narrated by Richard Widmark.

Mendocino Mushrooming: December 10-11, 1977

As this is written spaces remain on our third annual mushroom hunt. There has been much more rain in Mendocino County than in the Bay Area and the report is good — the mushrooms are up by the hundreds. We'll have a chartered bus and stay overnight at the Little River Inn. Dr. and Mrs. Orr will be our leaders. The cost is \$60 per person (\$14 single supplement) and includes transportation, lodging, one breakfast and one lunch. Don't forget your binoculars — we'll look for migrating whales as well. Members only.

Birding in the Sutter Buttes: January 28-29, 1978

The Sutter Buttes are finally open to visitors. And what a sight! Located on the Pacific flyway, the Buttes are the temporary home of a staggering number of birds. We will use the professional naturalists of the West Butte Sanctuary Co. to lead us on birding walks in the Sacramento River riparian area, in Gray Lodge with its tremendous waterfowl

concentrations, and the Sutter Buttes themselves. Transportation will be by chartered bus from the Academy. Lodging has been changed to Yuba City, where single rooms are available for \$10 extra. The cost is \$55 per person, which includes transportation, lodging, and one box lunch. Members only.

Bodega Bay and Birds:

February 4, 1978

Another of our popular annual trips, planned as a one-day visit to Bodega Bay to see the great variety and numbers of migrating and over-wintering waterfowl. Birding experience is not necessary, there is plenty here for all to enjoy. Dr. John Arnold will be resident-expert. We'll leave from the Academy at 8 a.m. and return in the late afternoon. \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

Reservations for these three field trips are made, by mail only, to the Travel Office of the Academy. The enclosure of a self-addressed envelope is always appreciated.

Hawaiian Islands:

March 2-12, 1978

Volcanoes, whales and tropical vegetation of the Islands of Maui, Hawaii and Kauai will be the focus of the trip. On this specially designed itinerary, participants will have opportunities to explore and study the volcanic geology of Volcanoes National Park of Hawaii and Haleakala National Park of Maui. A day will be spent cruising in the Alenuihaha Channel between Maui, Lanai, and Molokai to watch the activities of the humpback whales; snorkling, swimming and picnicking will be part of the program for this day. On the "Garden Isle" of Kauai the plant and bird life will be of special interest. Cost: approximately \$540, plus airfare. Contact Nature Expeditions International at (415) 328-6572, or the Academy's Travel Office for further information.

Sea of Cortez:

March 24-April 2, 1978

A cruise on the Sea of Cortez is an experience not to be missed by those who enjoy the desert environment of Baja California. Members will fly from San Diego to Bahia de los Angeles where they will board the motorship **Poseidon**

to explore the islands and coastal communities of the central desert of Lower California to Loreto and return by air from La Paz. Photographers, snorklers, and students of natural history will find an incredible variety of wildlife and beauty in this land and sea. Limited to 17. Cost: approximately \$650 from San Diego. Contact Nature Expeditions International, 599 College Avenue, Palo Alto 94306, telephone 328-6572 for further information.

We also have trips scheduled in the future to **Alaska** (July), **Southwest Pueblo Country** (August), **Islands of the Pacific and New Guinea** (August), **East Africa and the Seychelles** (September), and **Angel Falls, Tobago and Surinam** (October). Details of these trips can be found on current and upcoming **Pacific Discovery** back covers. Another very special trip, limited to ten, is a voyage in the **Galapagos** next November on a small sailing ship. Watch for details in upcoming issues of the "Newsletter".

SOMETHING BRAND NEW!

Beginning in January of 1978 we are inaugurating what are tentatively called **MIDWEEK MEMBERS' TOURS**. We won't go far, and we won't be gone long. Join us on our first, to see the **SAN FRANCISCO BAY MODEL** in Sausalito. The model — an accurate miniature of San Francisco Bay and the Delta — is used by the Army Corps of Engineers to study tides, currents, siltation, and so on. We'll be given a tour and a demonstration of their work. A chartered bus will leave from the Academy at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 25. We'll return by 3:30 p.m. By advance reservation, \$5/person, members only.

Future destinations include Ames Research Center, Audubon Canyon Ranch, The Geysers, and more. If you have knowledge of, or interest in, touring something similar, the Travel Office would more than welcome your ideas.

A Very Merry Christmas Gift Idea

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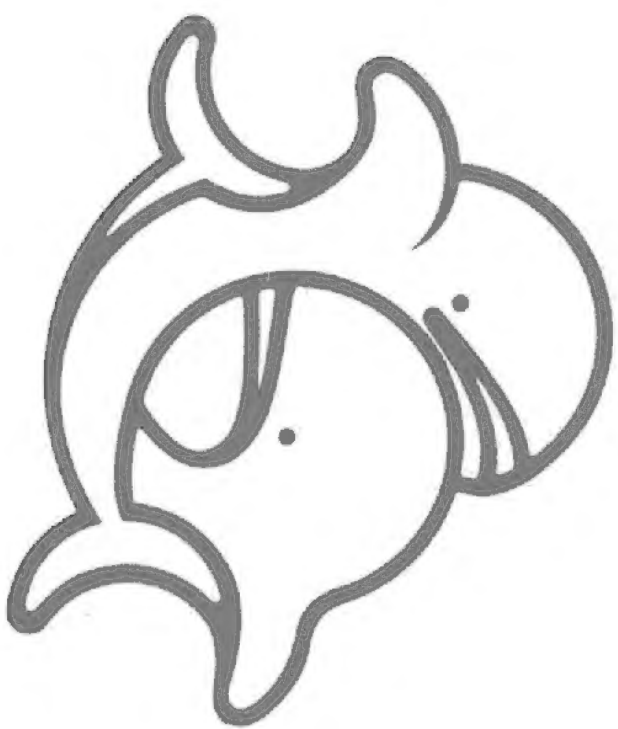
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Dec '77
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California Academy of Sciences
Newsletter December, 1977

